

Electrosurgical System

Abstract

An electrosurgical system includes a generator (10) for generating radio
5 frequency power, an electrosurgical instrument (12) including at least two electrodes,
and an identification element (80) representative of at least the number of electrodes
present on the instrument. The generator (10) comprises an RF output stage having
three or more output connections (62A, 62B, 62C), and a power supply (66) coupled to
the output stage for supplying power to the output stage. The generator (10) also
10 includes a controller (72) capable of varying the RF signal supplied to at least one of
the three or more output connections (62A, 62B, 62C), and a switching circuit (62) for
varying the connections between the power supply (66) and the three or more output
connections. The generator (10) also includes a sensing circuit capable of sensing the
identification element (80) carried by the instrument, and of sending a signal to the
15 switching circuit (62) to set the switching circuit to a mode of operation depending on
the number of electrodes present on the instrument (12).